

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOI/PA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
FOI/PA# 1382926-0

Total Deleted Page(s) = 3  
Page 15 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 16 ~ Duplicate;  
Page 17 ~ Duplicate;

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RR AL CG NK NY

DE HQ 0098 0470445

ZNR UUUUU

R 152000Z FEB 83

FM DIRECTOR FBI

TO FBI CHICAGO ROUTINE

FBI NEWARK ROUTINE

FBI NEW YORK (JTF-2) ROUTINE

FBI ALBANY ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

FALM; DOMESTIC SECURITY; OO: CHICAGO

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING  
INFORMATION, WHICH WAS RECEIVED AS A RESULT OF AN INQUIRY  
BEING CONDUCTED IN AN EFFORT TO LOCATE A MISSING AMERICAN  
CHILD OVERSEAS.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED], WHO CAN BE REACHED AT TELEPHONE [REDACTED]  
WISHES TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING [REDACTED]  
WHO IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM COMMUNITY CHURCH,  
ISLAND POND, VERMONT. ACCORDING TO [REDACTED]

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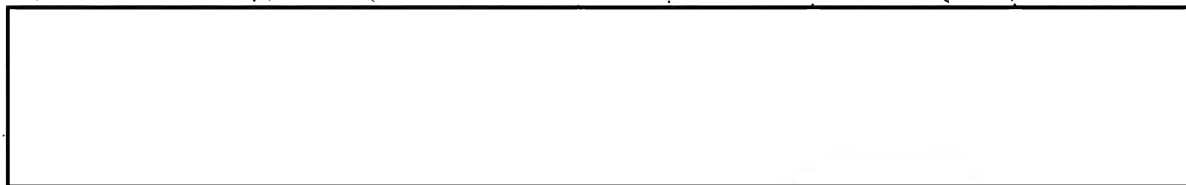
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FEB

ALBANY

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FBIHQ INDICES ARE NEGATIVE REGARDING [REDACTED] AND THE NORTH-  
EAST KINGDOM COMMUNITY CHURCH. NEWARK SHOULD INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] REGARDING THIS INFORMATION AND ALL RECIPIENTS SHOULD  
EXPEDITIOUSLY CONTACT ALL LOGICAL SOURCES AND CHECK OFFICE  
INDICES ON THE ABOVE. RECIPIENTS SHOULD SUBMIT TELETYPE  
SUMMARY RESULTS TO FBIHQ AND ALL OTHER RECIPIENTS OF THIS  
COMMUNICATIONS.

BT

0098

NNNN

☐ TO: SAC:

- ☒ Albany  
☐ Albuquerque  
☐ Alexandria  
☐ Anchorage  
☐ Atlanta  
☐ Baltimore  
☐ Birmingham  
☐ Boston  
☐ Buffalo  
☐ Butte  
☐ Charlotte  
☐ Chicago  
☐ Cincinnati  
☐ Cleveland  
☐ Columbia  
☐ Dallas  
☐ Denver  
☐ Detroit  
☐ El Paso  
☐ Honolulu  
☐ ASAC, New Rochelle (MRA)  
☐ ASAC, Brooklyn-Queens (MRA)

- ☐ Houston  
☐ Indianapolis  
☐ Jackson  
☐ Jacksonville  
☐ Kansas City  
☐ Knoxville  
☐ Las Vegas  
☐ Little Rock  
☐ Los Angeles  
☐ Louisville  
☐ Memphis  
☐ Miami  
☐ Milwaukee  
☐ Minneapolis  
☐ Mobile  
☐ Newark  
☐ New Haven  
☐ New Orleans  
☐ New York City  
☐ Norfolk

- ☐ Oklahoma City  
☐ Omaha  
☐ Philadelphia  
☐ Phoenix  
☐ Pittsburgh  
☐ Portland  
☐ Richmond  
☐ Sacramento  
☐ St. Louis  
☐ Salt Lake City  
☐ San Antonio  
☐ San Diego  
☐ San Francisco  
☐ San Juan  
☐ Savannah  
☐ Seattle  
☐ Springfield  
☐ Tampa  
☐ Washington Field  
☐ Quantico

- ☐ Bern  
☐ Bogota  
☐ Bonn  
☐ Canberra  
☐ Hong Kong  
☐ London  
☐ Mexico City  
☐ Montevideo  
☐ Ottawa  
☐ Panama City  
☐ Paris  
☐ Rome  
☐ Tokyo

2-15-83

Date

RE: Bureau teletype to CG, NY,AL, and NK dated  
2-15-83


Subject: FALN  
Domestic Security  
OO: NY

- Retention For appropriate  
☐ For information ☐ optional ☐ action ☐ Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_  
☒ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources,  
☐ paraphrase contents.  
☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_  
dated \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks:

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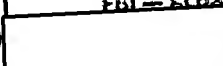

*ICC to*  


*Call [redacted] tell him to hold off leads until he sees this and your [redacted]*

*2/18/83*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 17 1983	
FBI - ALBANY	

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Elaine Isaacson—Burlington Free Press

*Kingdom members: 'Trying to live a quiet, godly life'*



Ira Wyman

*The Browns with trooper Cunningham: 'I couldn't stand listening to them cry'*

## The Kingdom at Island Pond

Folks in the tiny Vermont village of Island Pond (population: 1,542), nestled in rugged mountains near the Canadian border, like to say they live in "God's country." But lately residents have begun to fear that some of their neighbors may be confusing God with Elbert Eugene Spriggs. A Chattanooga carnival barker turned self-proclaimed Christian apostle, Spriggs has established a fundamentalist Christian community—the Northeast Kingdom Community Church—in Island Pond and settled 300 devoted followers there. And although the town originally welcomed the Kingdom, a bitter child-custody dispute between an ex-Spriggs follower and his wife—still a group member—has unleashed charges of widespread child abuse among members of the Kingdom and triggered a boycott of half a dozen church-owned businesses by some locals.

Outwardly, subjects of the Kingdom are a tranquil lot—quiet young men and modest women with kerchiefs on their heads. The charges against them became public at a hearing in which former church member Juan Mattatall—excommunicated for questioning the gospel according to Spriggs—sought custody of his five children, still living with his wife in one of the 13 Victorian homes that serve as communes. Witnesses testified that all the Kingdom's children, from tots to teens, received frequent and lengthy bare-bottom thrashings with wooden rods—during which they were supposed to smile and thank their elders. The beatings so upset Charles and Tommye Brown, a couple recruited personally by Spriggs in Wyoming, that they quit the Kingdom only a few months after hitchhiking for two weeks to reach it. "I couldn't stand what they were doing to their chil-

dren," said Tommye. "I couldn't stand listening to them cry."

The Kingdom defends its "spare the rod, spoil the child" philosophy as Old Testament discipline that drives out the Devil and renders the youngsters pure of heart. "We're just trying to live a quiet, godly life," says Bill Hinchliffe, a cheerful, young deacon. Local authorities have not been able to confirm child-abuse charges because the Kingdom is virtually a closed society that shuns contact with the outside world. Vermont state trooper Kathy Cunningham has followed the case closely, but says the police cannot do much. "They've taken away all our normal ways to detect child abuse," she says. "There are no teachers to report scars, no doctors to report anything funny."

Deaths: There are also no doctors to save lives. Local officials say that the Kingdom's reliance on paramedics and a makeshift health facility may have led to the deaths of three infants, including one whose spinal meningitis was misdiagnosed as an ear infection. Cunningham says one of the dead babies weighed only 13 pounds at eight months but had never been brought to a hospital.

Elbert Spriggs could hardly have imagined such problems in 1972 when he founded a shelter for runaways, drug abusers and other alienated youths in Chattanooga. But when he discovered that his troubled flock was unwelcome in a local church, he simply began one of his own—and it soon became a potent force.

"Gene started feeling his oats, and we were working so hard toward the Kingdom of God that we started to feel like a superior people," recalls Cliff Daniels, who joined the church at 17 after a long talking session with Spriggs and later became his right-hand man. Daniels, who quit the church in 1976 before it left Tennessee, charges that Spriggs "is a father in the truest meaning of the word . . . he has manipulated people's emotions, life-style and thoughts, and used the Bible to do this."



John W. Coniglio—Chattanooga Times

*Spriggs: Seldom seen*

**Yankee Thrift:** If Spriggs is manipulating his flock in Island Pond, he is doing it mostly from afar these days. Seldom seen in Vermont, he is reportedly camping with his fourth wife and one of Mattatall's children in Portugal, where followers say he contemplates establishing another Kingdom. Back in Vermont the Kingdom appears to be thriving despite the boycott, thanks in part to two traditional New England virtues: a reluctance to interfere in the affairs of neighbors, and

good, old-fashioned Yankee thrift. "They do fine work," says one local, "and they charge a whole lot less than most folks around here." Others believe that in any case, the controversy is overblown. "I think the whole disadvantage for the group is that the Jonestown incident has sort of influenced townsfolk," says Beverly Pepin, a local hairdresser. "The only comparison between Jim Jones and Gene Spriggs is that when Jones started, he felt he was the disciple of Christ too." Says one of the church's members: "We really trust in the Lord to vindicate us."

MARK STARR with MARSHA ZABARSKY  
in Island Pond

[REDACTED] PAGE TWO, UNCLAS EFTO

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ALBANY SOURCE WAS RECONTACTED ON FEBRUARY 23, 1983 BUT WAS  
UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] OR THE EVEBOM BOMBINGS. ALBANY SOURCE WILL FURNISH  
ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION DEVELOPED REGARDING [REDACTED] AND THE EVEBOM  
BOMBINGS.

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BT

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FM NEWARK [REDACTED] (P) [REDACTED]

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TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

ALBANY (ROUTINE)

CHICAGO (ROUTINE)

NEW YORK (ROUTINE)

BT

UNCLAS

88-7530-3  
91A-789A-510 p.6

FALN; DOMESTIC SECURITY; OO: CHICAGO

RE: BUREAU TELETYPE TO NEWARK, DATED FEBRUARY 16, 1983.

NEWARK INDICES CONCERNING [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AND THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM COMMUNITY CHURCH PRODUCED  
NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1983, [REDACTED] TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] WAS TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED AND HE ADVISED HE WOULD BE  
AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW CONCERNING [REDACTED] AND ANY RELATION HE  
MAY HAVE WITH THE FALN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1983.

RECEIVING OFFICES WILL IMMEDIATELY BE APPRISED OF

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

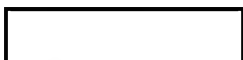
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FBI - ALBANY

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PAGE TWO



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INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY



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BT



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☒ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☒ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/25/83

FM ALBANY [ ] (P)

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TO DIRECTOR, FBI (PRIORITY)

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SAC CHICAGO (PRIORITY)

TO NEWARK (PRIORITY)

TO NEW YORK (PRIORITY)

BT

UNCLAS EFTO

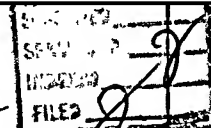
FALN; DOMESTIC SECURITY, OO: CHICAGO.

RE BUTEL TO ALBANY DATED FEBRUARY 15, 1983 AND TELCALL FROM  
MONTPELIER RA TO NEWARK, FEBRUARY 25, 1983.

DETECTIVE [ ] VERMONT STATE POLICE, DERBY, VERMONT  
ADVISED ON FEBRUARY 24, 1983, THAT [ ] WHITE  
MALE, BORN [ ] POB, UNKNOWN, CAME TO VERMONT FROM  
TENNESSEE THREE YEARS AGO WITH SEVERAL PERSONS [ ] THE

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Approved: [Signature]

Transmitted [Signature]

(Number)

(Time)

Per [Signature]

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] PAGE TWO, UNCLAS EFTO

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NORTHEAST KINGDOM COMMUNITY CHURCH AT ISLAND POND, VERMONT.

THE GROUP PURCHASED SEVERAL HOUSES IN THE VILLAGE AND OPERATE  
 THE FARM, RESTAURANT, BAKERY AND APPLIANCE REPAIR BUSINESSES.

HE ADVISED ALL PROPERTY INCLUDING EACH INDIVIDUAL AND CHILDREN  
 ARE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH. [ ] WERE

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH AND HAD FOUR OR FIVE CHILDREN. [ ] LEFT  
 THE GROUP [ ] WHO REMAINS WITH THE CHURCH.

[ ] OF THE CHILDREN BUT ONE OF CHILDREN,  
 A YOUNG GIRL NAMED [ ] IS IN COMPANY OF [ ] WHO IS BELIEVED  
 TO BE IN PORTUGAL ATTEMPTING TO SET UP CHURCH THERE.

[ ] ADVISED THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE  
 FROM DEFECTORS OF CHURCH. HE ADVISED [ ] HAS BEEN TO THE  
 AREA ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND PROFESSES TO BE EXPERT ON CULT AND  
 MAY BE INVOLVED IN DEPROGRAMMING DEFECTORS. [ ] ONLY  
 ONCE AND BELIEVES [ ] INTERESTED IN OBTAINING PUBLICITY FOR HIS  
 OWN USE. [ ] ADVISED ATTEMPTS TO DETERMINE [ ] EXACT  
 LOCATION NEGATIVE. THOSE AFFILIATED WITH THE CHURCH ARE NOT  
 BELIGERENT, BUT THEY REFUSE TO FURNISH [ ] WHEREABOUTS EVEN  
 IF THEY KNOW.

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(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

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## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] PAGE THREE, UNCLAS EFTO b3  
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INQUIRY AT US POST OFFICE, ISLAND POND, REVEALS [ ]  
HAS FURNISHED NO FORWARDING ADDRESS. HE HAS BEEN GONE FROM  
THE AREA FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

[ ] ADVISED CHURCH MEMBERS ARE HARD WORKING, INDUSTRIOUS  
AND GIVE NO INDICATION OF BEING INVOLVED IN ANY FORM OF SUBVERSIVE  
ACTIVITY. HE ADVISED US BORDER PATROL HAS REMOVED CANADIAN ALIENS  
FROM GROUP IN THE PAST, WHO HAD ENTERED US ILLEGALLY TO JOIN THE  
GROUP BUT PURPOSE OF THESE PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE STRICTLY FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF LIVING WITH THE GROUP AND PRACTICING ITS PRINCIPLES.

ON FEBRUARY 25, 1983, [ ] ADVISED ONE DEFECTOR FROM THE  
GROUP, [ ]  
WHO WAS [ ] IN VIETNAM.

[ ] HAS ADVISED ALL MEMBERS TAKE MORNING PHYSICAL EXERCISES  
IN GROUP BUT NO PARA MILITARY TRAINING. [ ] AND FAMILY NOW  
RESIDE IN [ ] VERMONT..

BT

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_

(Number)

(Time)

Per \_\_\_\_\_

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DE NK

R. 90042Z MAR 83

FM NEWARK [REDACTED]

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TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

ALBANY (ROUTINE)

NEW YORK (ROUTINE)

BT

~~UNCLAS~~

FALN; D.S.; 00: CHICAGO

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO NEWARK, FEBRUARY 16, 1983.

ON MARCH 7, 1983, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED CONCERNING [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] POSSIBLE AFFILIATION WITH THE FALN.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARIZED VERSION OF THE INTERVIEW:

[REDACTED] BEGAN THE INTERVIEW BY GIVING A BRIEF BACKGROUND OF [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] AND HOW [REDACTED] THE NORTHEAST KINGDOM

COMMUNITY CHURCH IN ISLAND POND, VERMONT. [REDACTED] STATED THAT

BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS COURT PROCEEDINGS AGAINST [REDACTED] GROUP

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IN LATE 1981, [REDACTED] FLED TO WEST GERMANY AND SWEDEN. WHILE [REDACTED]

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SERIALIZED  
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PAGE TWO NEWARK [REDACTED]

UNCLAS

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IN EUROPE UNCONFIRMED SOURCES ADVISED [REDACTED] MAY HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH THE PLO. AFTER AGAIN CONFRONTING PROBLEMS IN EUROPE [REDACTED] RELOCATED TO PORTUGAL.

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WHILE IN PORTUGAL, [REDACTED] WAS VISITED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF HIS VERMONT GROUP TO DISCUSS VARIOUS PROBLEMS CURRENTLY ENCOUNTERED BY THE GROUP IN THE U.S. ONE OF THESE PROBLEMS WAS THE INCREASING PRESSURE AND EXPOSURE [REDACTED] WAS UNDER IN VERMONT DUE TO A PHOTO OF [REDACTED] AND NUMEROUS FALN LEADERS THAT WAS BEING CIRCULATED. AFTER SHOWN THIS PHOTO BY MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, [REDACTED] SUPPOSEDLY BROKE DOWN CRYING AND STATED "I THOUGHT I HAD ANOTHER TEN YEARS".

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[REDACTED] FURTHER STATED THAT [REDACTED] WHILE BOTH IN EUROPE AND PORTUGAL HAD MADE NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT POLITICAL ACTIVIST GROUPS INSTEAD

OF COMMONLY KNOWN RELIGIOUS GROUPS, BECAUSE [REDACTED] FELT HIS FOLLOWSHIP WAS DWINDLING.

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IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT NONE OF THE INFORMATION GIVEN ABOVE COULD BE SUBSTANTIATED THROUGH CONCRETE EVIDENCE. [REDACTED] DID ADVISE THAT HE WOULD IN THE FUTURE ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE THE PHOTO MENTIONED ABOVE OR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PHOTO. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT STATE TROOPER [REDACTED] VERMONT STATE POLICE IN

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PAGE THREE NEWARK [REDACTED]

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ISLAND POND, VERMONT, COULD PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS GROUP, IF REQUESTED.

[REDACTED] ALSO SUPPLIED A FOURTEEN PAGE ESSAY CONCERNING [REDACTED] AND HIS FOLLOWERS.

NEWARK AT THIS POINT FEELS THAT DUE TO LACK OF SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT [REDACTED] IS IN CONTACT WITH THE FALN, NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THIS MATTER SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.

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NEWARK IF REQUESTED BY RECEIVING OFFICES WILL SUPPLY A COPY OF THIS FOURTEEN PAGE ESSAY SUPPLIED BY [REDACTED]

BT

1/12/83

[redacted]  
Informant advised [redacted]  
of the Northeast Kingdom Community Church, Island Pond, Vermont,  
was currently wanted by Vermont authorities for manslaughter.  
Informant further advised [redacted] organization were  
engaged in smuggling activities off the coast of the State of  
Maine, and were utilizing a ship of some kind in furtherance  
of these activities. Informant was unable to specify the type  
of smuggling or the exact location of same.

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SERIALIZED

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(encls)

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